

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, May 4. 1706.

I Am now to examine the Ground and Reasonableness of those Complaints, which have been Whisper'd about among us, of my Lord P.... b's being Neglected, want of Succours to K. Charles, and timely Relief being sent to *Catalonia*.

I confess, under the Management OF SOME PEOPLE, who SOME PEOPLE would fain have in again; we found our Allies but too much neglected, Alliances needful to the common Good slighted, useful Confederates lost, and left to be with vast Expence of Treasure and Time recovered again, Fatal Instances whereof, are in *Savoy*, *Boaria*, *Portugal*, and the Miserably Abandon'd *Camisars*.

I am not for Denouncing Judgments, or Confining Heaven to Personal Retributions, but without doubt, had our Ministers of

State espous'd that Cause heartily, and with the same force as now, by the like Attempt in *Spain*, the Blood of these poor People might have been sav'd or spent more to] the Service of the General Protestant Interest.

But this is a vain looking back; I come now to the present Management of things; and when all our Murmuring Malecontent Gentlemen have put their Arguments together, I must tell them they have the Misfortune, that their Matter of Fact fails them — And it is the most easie Task in the World to prove, that this *Spanish* Expedition has not been at all neglected; that let the Success be how it will, more has been done, than ever has been Attempted in *England* before, and as much as the Time, the Distance, the Nature of the thing

thing and its Circumstances could admit; I will add, nay as much has been done, as any Wise Men could Answer for, and if more early Embarkations or Equipments had been made, I think the Prudence of the Government had been Chargeable with the Event.

To come at the Particulars of this Matter, we are to consider the Circumstances of Time and Place, and we shall find, that the Letters Importing the Success of my Lord P. . . . k, came to the Government here, but just time enough to Engage the Parliament, to make Provision for a Supply, in Aid of that Design.

I am willing to suppose these Complaining Gentlemen, could not imagine, a new Provision could be made for that purpose, before an Account could be given, what was the Issue of the Adventure it self.

The Success there, has been a Prodigy beyond all Rational Expectation; a whole Kingdom, and a Principality as big as two Kingdoms, have be'n reduc'd in a few Weeks, and to support them in those Conquests was our next Business; I would then ask of our Gentlemen, if they know what has been done towards supporting this, and let them if they can, tell us what has been neglected, that could or might have been done?

First, Large Supplies of Money have been Remitted in Specie, to supply the Occasions of their Troops, and Assist them to form Armies out of the Inhabitants who came in to them; our Common Prints tell us of 40000 Pistoles, carried by Captain Cavendish, with two Men of War from Leghorn to King Charles, and of the Crown and Painter Men of War, at another time, Landing a considerable Sum of Money at Denia, for the Earl of P. . . . k.

This leaves those People without Excuse, who say, my Lord P. . . . has been Abandon'd, and that Expedition neglected.

From the Supplies of Money, we come to Supplies of Men, Ammunition and Stores; and in this Case, let them tell us a time in England, when so many Forces have at so short a warning, so many Ships so early

in the Year been fitted out for any Expedition whatsoever.

Here we find Sir John Lake at Sea, from Lisbon with 18 Men of War, by the 20th of March, a Dutch Squadron with Recruits for the Forces in Portugal, and Commodore Price with 6 Men of War, with three Regiments, General Officers, and Stores for the Train, join'd him from England, by the 24. of April; a third Convoy with more Forces from Ireland, Sail'd from thence the 26th of March, and Sir George Bing, with a fourth Convoy, and 16 Stout Ships, most of them 70 Gun Ships and upward, Sail'd from Portsmouth the 25th of March.

Let any Man put all these together, and tell me whenever 60 Sail of Men of War, for when altogether, they will want few of that Number, entred the Straits in April, or indeed put to Sea in March.

Let them Calculate Seasons, and look into the Custom of our Admirals, and examine, if they have not always thought it unsafe to venture our Great Ships into the Ocean, so early in the Year as March — Nay let them tell us, upon due Consideration of things, whether it is safe for England, almost on any Terms, to hazard the Royal Navy so advanc'd a Season, and when ever in former days such things have been done.

Had the usual Tempestuous Weather happen'd, which in these Months we generally meet with in the Mouth of our Channel, taken hold of our Detach'd Squadrons, and shatter'd them to pieces; how would the same Mouths have been full of the Indiscretion of our People here, to Adventure the Nations Strength at such a Season, and send the English Navy to Fight with Winds and Seas, and as it were to Contend with God Almighty himself.

Some who hardly know *Thoulon* from *Portsmouth*, as to Situation, ask this wild Question; *Why should not we be at Sea as soon as the French Fleet?* — To such I am not talking, but when they have Measure'd the Distances, I shall give them a more Direct Answer.

If it be Objected, that the Season for taking

taking and keeping the Field in *Spain*, being at the Beginning and End of the Year, we should have provided accordingly, are to be Answer'd, that this being the first Year of this War, that Question is resolv'd in it self, by comparing the time between the Attempt, or the Success of the Attempt, with the Succours sent from hence; which being Calculated right, it will appear impossible to have done it sooner.

To say they should have been sent thither strong enough to have kept the Field, *is saying nothing*; they have been sent *strong enough* to seize on two Provinces, and have not yet been beaten out of one Town of Strength, and perhaps if they would think fit to quit all the Towns they have Garrison'd, might still have Encamp'd under the Cannon of *Barcelona*, and have prevented the Siege, but the hazard is Unequal, and the Prudence of it, would have been Censur'd by all the World.

As to the strength of the *French*, it being at a Season before they are enter'd upon Action in other Places; 'tis plain, you could not have Proportion'd your strength so, as to be sure of keeping the Field, or preventing the Siege, since had your force been 20000 Men more, the *French* with but putting off the Siege of *Turin*, could have also sent 20000 more Men then they have.

So that, turn which way you will in this Case, it appears to all Unbiass and Impartial Judgments, that not only possibility as to Expedition, but Prudence as to hazard joins with the Measures taken, *to Testifie*, that really nothing has been wanting in the Supplies, neither as to Number or Season, for the support of the War in *Spain*, and the Encouragement of our Brave

Troops there, to do their Duty, in Defence of King *Charles* and his just Pretences.

And should the Success of things there not Answer our Expectation, I cannot see the Government can be lyable to any Reflection, or Chargeable with any Mismanagement, all possible Efforts having been made, to Succour, Relieve, and Support our Troops, and to enable them to push on their Conquests to the desir'd Effect.

And after all we do not yet see, that our Supplies shall not be time enough; we find by our Advices, Sir *John Lake* with 30 Ships of the Line of Battle enter'd the Straights, and resolv'd directly for *Barcelona*; if the Winds should lock him up, and he cannot come in time, who will these Gentlemen Charge with that, at whose Door will they lay the Partiality of a *Levant*? If God Almighty governs the Elements, no Man is accountable for staying, when he forbids to go; but if the Prince of the Air be concern'd, and have it at all in his Power, we have indeed *the less to hope for*, since I cannot by any of the Common Rules of Judging, find he is yet come into the Confederacy.

But what now? If our Fleet should come time enough to Relieve the Town, and Monseigneur *Toulouse*, should quit to us the Watery Campaign, as I cannot apprehend any thing but contrary Winds to hinder; How blank will all these Complainers look? How foolish all their Suggestions? How weak their Designs to divide and Discourage us? which as it is an Event, cannot now be long Undetermin'd; I leave any farther Remark on it, till the certainty of things shall appear.

MISCELLANEA.

Mr. Review,
 O V the last Fast Day in the Evening, being the 23d of March, about a Quarter past Eight a Clock, and a clear Star-light Night,

being abroad in the Fields, I perceiv'd an unusual Light in the Air, but brightest towards the Horizon full North, as near as I could guess, having look'd at it some while, I perceiv'd

perceiv'd on my Right Hand due East, a Stream of Fire, rise above the Horizon, like the Tail of the Great Comet, which appear'd about the Year 1680. which rose upward higher and higher to a vast Length, and about 3 Yards wide in Prospect. While I was looking at this, I was yet more surpris'd with the like Stream of Fire on the direct Opposition to this full West; but which rose up in the same manner, and both continued to rise higher and higher, till they met in an Arch or Bow encircling the whole Concave, very bright and terrible. While I was looking with Amazement at this vast Bow of Fire, the Lights in the North encreasing, at length there arose from under the Horizon, eight or ten Great Streams of Fire like the other, save that they were not so broad, nor did they rise so high as the other.

This strange Appearance continued about half an Hour, and then decaying in its Light, dyed of it self, and went off, and Thousands of Spectators are Witnesses to the Truth of it. I send the Account of it to you, that you may make what use of it you please.

Dudly, Apr. 20.

Yours

1706.

A. B.

I do not Publish this Account so much, to Attempt the Solution of any Difficulty in it, as to Inform the Reader of two things.

1. That I have an Account from Eye Witnesses to the Truth of this Appearance, who saw it some 40 Miles West, some 100 Miles South from the Place where this Gentleman saw it; and for that Reason I give full Credit to the Fact.

2. And next that, I think it not amiss to Record the Particulars of such a very strange Complication of Circumstances, that other People may make more effectual Observations than I can.

It would be too remote to my Business, to Read a Lecture of Meteors and Exhalations here, the Nature and frequency of which are so known, as to remove our wonder; but when I heard a Certain Gentleman, enter into a most Prolonged Construction of the meaning of this, viz. That the Arms of the French Monarch shall Embrace Europe; methoughts it was just as significant, as if I should say, it was a forerunner of the Destruction of the Occasional-Bill; that it was Usher'd into the House of Commons by the Great Storm.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is Publish'd,

AN Essay at removing National Prejudices against a Union with Scotland. To be continued during the Treaty here. Part I. London, Printed for Ben. Bragg, at the Black Raven in Paper-Noster-Row. 1706.

WHEREAS, many Persons, that have in less than Half an Hour, been perfectly Eased, and totally free'd, from the most intollerable Torturing Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, by only Bathing with the most Famous Chymical Secret, called *Anti-Arbitricon*, or Gout Antidote; complain that so small a Quantity of it being sold for 3 s. 6 d. they can't conveniently buy so often as the Extremity of their Pain, or continuance of the Fit of the Gout, &c. may require. This is therefore to give Notice, that the Author of this Medicine, (for the publick Good) has now ordered it to be sold in Bottles, that contain near as much more as the former did, and enough to perfect the cure for the same Price, viz. 3 s. 6 d. each, with Directions. NOTE, it infallibly prevents the Gout, returning into the Stomach. Sold only at Mr. Alcraft's a Toy-Shop at the Bluecoat-Boy against the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mr. Bruck's Stationer, at the Ship near the May-Pole in the Strand.

WASSE'S Elixir for the Gout and Rheumatism; for the Cholick, Stone, Gravel and Ulcers in the Bladder and Kidneys; a sure Remedy for the Dry-Gripes in the West-Indies. Price Three Shillings the Half-pint, with Printed Directions. Sold by Mr. James Atkinson, near Cherry-Garden Stairs, Rotherhith. Mr. John Rogers, Stationer, near the Tower At Brightman's Coffee-house near Wapping Old-Stairs. At Nando's Coffee-house near Temple-Bar. At North's Coffee-house in King-street. Mr. George Flower, Instrument-maker, near Cock-hill. Mr. John Thorntor. in the Minories. Mr. Richard Mount, Stationer, on Tower-hill. Mr. Baker, Bookeller, at Mercers Chappel. Mr. Clark, Bookeller in Birch-lane. At Jones's Coffee-house in inch-lane. Mrs. Bond, next Door to Man's Coffee-house near Whitehall. Ives's Coffee-house in Bartholomew-lane. Mr. Billingsley, under the Royal-Exchange. At Oliver's Coffee-house, at Westminster-hall Gate. Mrs. Miller, Milliner, at the Red M. in Pope's-head Alley. Mr. Waley, at the Magpie without Bishopsgate. Roe's Coffee-house, at the Bridge-foot in Southwark. At the Admiralty Coffee-house and at his own House in Clement Lane.